13th August 1956]

Lands in Vriddhachalam taluk

6 Q.—Sri M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister fo Revenue be pleased to state how many acres of patta lands, how many acres of waste lands and how many acres of forest lands are available in Vriddhachalam taluk of South Arcot district ?

A.—Patta lands—237,659 acres.

Waste lands—

(a) Assessed waste—37,409 acres.

(b) Unassessed waste—1,198 acres.

Forests—17,731 acres.

New schemes introduced in First Five-Year Plan in Vriddhachalam taluk

7 Q.—Sri M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the improvements effected and the new schemes introduced by the Government in the First Five Year Plan in Vriddhachalam taluk in South Arcot district ?

A.—The First Five-Year Plan was drawn up taking into consideration the needs of the State as a whole. The Government have therefore not drawn up any special schemes for Vriddhachalam taluk or for any other taluk in particular.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* HARDSHIP FELT BY STUDENTS OF PADAYACHI COMMUNITY.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have received notice under Rule 40 from Sri K. R. Viswanathan calling attention of the Hon. Minister for Finance and Education to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the hardship felt by the students of the Padayachi community due to the withdrawal of the full-fee concession in schools given to them. Sri Viswanathan may explain his point. 10-10 a.m.

* Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, full-fee concession was granted under G.O. No. 1081, Education, dated 2nd August 1954 to the students of the Padayatchi community in the districts of Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Tanjore and South Arcot. This was because this community was included in the list of former criminal tribes circulated along with memorandum No. 34123-D/51/9, Education, dated 28th November 1952. Sir, it is a fact that at one time this community in the four districts was declared as 'a Criminal tribe' and that is why it finds a place in the list referred to by me. In answer to my question on the floor of the House, in July 1953, the then Minister for Law had categorically stated that this community was eligible for full fee concession. I would like to make it clear here that the concession was granted

[Sri K. R. Viswanathan] [13th August 1956

to this community, not because it is now a criminal tribe, but because it was once declared as a criminal tribe. In Independent India, there is no community which is called a criminal tribe. On or about 20th July 1956, the Government issued a Press Note to the effect that the full-fee concession is restricted to the students of only two villages, viz., Tennore in Tiruchirappalli district and Vellayankuppam in South Arcot district. The issue of this Press Note has struck a catastrophic blow on the life of the students belonging to that community who have been studying in the colleges and schools without any fee and they have now to discontinue their studies. Many of them are asked to pay a lumpsum of fee as arrears for the past two years or so. The hardships felt by these students are unexpected and unbearable. I therefore request the Government not to restrict the full-fee concession only to these two villages, but to extend the same to all the students who could produce the necessary nativity certificate under Government Order No. 1081. Thank you, Sir.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, this question has been discussed on the floor of this House many times. But, there are certain doubts still persisting. Therefore, I would like to give the history of the concessions which were granted to the students belonging to certain communities.

In order to get the reclamation of criminal tribes and habitual offenders, the Government had undertaken several ameliorative schemes in the past which included full-fee concessions to the children of the criminal tribes in schools. This question was considered along with other existing scholarships and stipends by the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee in 1948 and the Committee recommended that the full-fee concessions should be extended to all boys and girls belonging to the Kallar and other similarly situated communities who were aided through the Police Department as members belonging to the criminal tribes. The same Committee had also recommended that boys and girls of backward communities as listed in the Educational Rules should be given half-fee concession. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted and orders were issued in Government Order Ms. No. 3915, Home, dated 28th September 1949.

As these orders were of a general nature, certain doubts were raised by some managements which were not prepared to implement the terms of the Government Order without getting a list of the so-called eligible tribes for full-fee concession. On a consideration of the matter, Government issued orders in Memo. No. 34123-D/51-9, dated 28th November 1952, giving in an annexure the details of the communities and the districts where they were chiefly found.

Subsequent to the issue of these orders, Sri K. R. Viswanathan, M.L.A., raised the point that children of the eligible communities were not being given the benefit of the concessions on the ground that these pupils described themselves as Vanniyakula

13th August 1956] [Sri C. Subramaniam]

Kshatriyas. The Director of Public Instruction referred the matter to Government and added that the Collector of Tiruchirappalli district observed that 'Vanniyakula Kshatriyas' are considered to be equivalent to Padayachis. The President, District Board, Tiruchirappalli, also made a reference to Government and observed that in parts of the district, Padayachis and Vanniyakula Kshatriyas were one and the same. A reference to the three volumes of Thurston's Castes and Tribes of Southern India showed that Padayachis and Vanniyakula Kshatriyas were synonymous terms describing one and the same community. In view of the fact that the children of these criminal tribes described themselves as belonging to the Vanniyakula Kshatriya community, it was proposed and ordered that the children of the Vanniyakula Kshatriya community in the four districts where they were regarded as equivalent to Padayachis or Criminal Tribes Padayachis should be given the benefit of the full-fee concessions and the orders were accordingly issued.

It will be seen from the above that the intention of Government has been to ensure that the children of the former Criminal Tribes are not denied the benefit of the full-fee concessions intended by Government on the ground that they described themselves as Vanniyakula Kshatriyas. It has, however, been represented to Government that not each and everyone of the Vanniyakula Kshatriya community should be regarded as belonging to the old criminal tribes of Padayachis or Criminal Padayachis and that, therefore, the orders contained in G.O. Ms. No. 1081 are likely to convey the benefit to a larger section of this community. In order to clarify the exact intention and purport of the Government Order, revised orders were issued in G.Os. No. 429, Education, dated 21st March 1955 and No. 430, Education, dated 22nd March 1955, directing that the children of Vanniyakula Kshatriyas of the four districts whose parents were members of the former "Criminal tribes" alone should get the full-fee concessions. It was also ordered that it would be necessary for the children to produce a certificate in the form prescribed in the Madras Educational Rules to the effect that the parent of the boy or girl is a member of the former "Criminal tribes" as specifically stated in the Memo. No. 34123-D/51-9, Education, dated 28th November 1952. It was also made clear that the children of the Vanniyakula Kshatriya community other than those belonging to the former "Criminal tribes" would be eligible only to get the benefit of half-fee concessions admissible to backward communities in all those districts.

In the memorandum, dated 4th September 1955, Sri K. R. Viswanathan, Member of the Legislative Assembly, pointed out the difficulties which pupils belonging to Vanniyakula Kshatriya community at present experienced in getting nativity certificates for the grant of full-fee concessions and requested—

(1) that the authorities who issue nativity certificates for the grant of full-fee concessions to the Vanniyakula Kshatriya pupils

belonging to the former Criminal tribes, i.e., the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, should be supplied with all the relevant Government Orders declaring the above communities as eligible for full-fee concessions;

(2) that the authorities may also be informed where these communities or groups belonging to the former Criminal Tribes live, i.e., the names of villages, taluks and districts where the communities live may be furnished to the authorities;

(3) that the only duty of the village officials should be to certify that the students belong to a certain community living in such and such a village;

(4) that the responsibility of fixing whether the student belongs to a former Criminal tribe or not should be left to the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar who will be guided by the records at his disposal; and

(5) that in the alternative the Members of the Legislature may be authorized to issue such nativity certificates.

The Director of Public Instruction who was consulted submitted the following remarks :—

Requests 1 and 2 : The Director of Public Instruction stated that a copy of the orders in Government Memo. No. 34123-D/51-9, Education, dated 28th November 1952 wherein the tribes hitherto known as Criminal Tribes eligible for full-fee concession have been specified might be communicated to the Collectors concerned for necessary action. He also suggested that the information as to the names of the villages where they live might be obtained from the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways and C.I.D., and also in consultation with the District Collectors. An up-to-date list of villages and areas in the districts of Salem and South Arcot where the Vanniyakula Kshatriyas belonging to the former criminal tribes are found was obtained from the Deputy Inspector-General. The Deputy Inspector-General stated that the Tennore Padayachis are the only Vanniyakula Kshatriyas belonging to former criminal tribes in Tiruchirappalli district and that there are no ex-criminal tribes belonging to Vanniyakula Kshatriyas in Tanjore district.

10-20 a.m. The matter was examined in detail with the available Government Orders on the subject. It was considered not possible after a lapse of 22 years to trace the descendants of the various individuals scattered in various villages in the various taluks of the districts of South Arcot and Tiruchirappalli who were declared as members of the criminal tribes. Hence the grant of full-fee concessions under G.O. No. 1081, Education, dated 2nd August 1954 to the descendants of various convicted criminal tribe members was considered impracticable. It was also found that Padayachis living in Tennore in the Tiruchirappalli district and Padayachis living in Vellayankuppam village of South Arcot district alone belonged to the ex-criminal tribes as a class, and that the Padayachis of Tanjore and Salem were never declared as belonging to criminal tribes.

13th August 1956] [Sri C. Subramaniam]

Orders were therefore issued in Government Order No. 1339, Education, dated 12th July 1956 directing that the full-fee concessions be confined to the children of Vanniyakula Kshatriyas or Padayachis belonging to the villages of Vellayankuppam in South Arcot district and Tennore in Tiruchirappalli district. This is the history of the case. I have tried to explain in detail as what all had happened and I have already emphasized that the policy of the Government has been to give the full-fee concession only to children belonging to the members of the ex-criminal tribes and it is restricted only to those cases. We have tried our best to locate where these criminal tribes were residing and are residing and these two villages are mentioned as villages where these criminal tribes are now living. Therefore, under those circumstances, I do not see any hardship caused to any particular community because of this. If it is any hardship, it is a general hardship which applies to every backward community and that question is now under the consideration of the Government with reference to the Report of the Backward Classes Commission. Certainly we cannot single out any particular community within the group of backward classes and give special concessions to them.

III.—DISCUSSION ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER: Now the discussion on the Governor's Address will be continued. The hon. Leader of the Opposition will now speak.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI: கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கவர்னர் அவர்களின் பிரசங்கத்தின்மீது விவாதத்தை துவக்கிவைத்த நண்பர் ஸ்ரீ கருத்திருமன் அவர்கள் துரதிருஷ்டவசமாக ஆரம்பத்திலேயே கொஞ்சம் காரசாரமாக மற்ற கட்சிக்காரர்களைத் தாக்க ஆரம்பித்தார்கள். அவருக்கு வேறு ஒன்றும் கையில் கிடைக்கவில்லை போலும். கீழ்பவானிப் பிரதேசத்திலுள்ள விவசாயிகளை யாரோ தூண்டிவிடுவதாக ஒரு பெரிய குற்றச்சாட்டு செய்து, தகராறைக் கிளப்பினார். அவர் ஏன் இந்த சண்டைக்குக் கிளம்ப வேண்டுமென்று எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. போன தடவை இந்த விவகாரம் சட்ட சபைக்கு முன் வந்தபொழுது, இது விஷயமாக பல சர்ச்சைகளுக்குமேல் சர்ச்சைகள் வந்தபொழுது, சர்க்கார் தரப்பில் அங்கு இருக்கக் கூடிய ஒரு நிலைமை பரிதாபகரமான நிலைமை, அது ரொம்பவும் சிக்கலான ஒரு நிலைமை என்றெல்லாம் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. நாங்கள் இது விஷயமாக வெளியிட்ட யோசனையும் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளப்படவில்லை. அனாவசியமாக விவசாயிகளின் தலையில் தண்டவரி போடுவது தப்பு. இந்த நிலைமை அங்கு ஏற்படுவதற்குக் காரணமென்ன? அங்கே கால்வாய்கள் வெட்டும்பொழுது சாதாரணமுறையில் கால்வாய்கள் வெட்டக்கூடாது. பக்கத்தில் "லைனிங்" கொடுத்து கால்வாய் வெட்டவேண்டும். இந்த விஷயத்தை சம்பந்தப்பட்ட என்ஜினியர்கள் சரியாகப் பரிசீலனை செய்து யோசனை கூறவில்லை. தண்ணீர் கசிவு ஏற்படாத அளவுக்கு என்ஜினியர்கள் யோசனை கூறியிருக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களின் தவறுக்காக விவசாயிகளின் தலையில் இந்த வரியைச் சுமத்துவது தவறு. பிரச்னையை நன்றாக பரிசீலனை செய்து பார்த்து ஒரு சரியான முடிவுக்கு வரவேண்டும். கட்சி வித்தியாசமில்லாமல் ஜனங்களின் பிரதிநிதியாக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள எம். எல். ஏக்களைகூட்டி, அல்லது ஒரு கமிட்டியை ஏற்படுத்தி, இந்த சிக்கலான பிரச்னையை பரிசீலனை செய்து ஒரு சரியான முடிவுக்கு வர முன்வரவேண்டுமென்று நாங்கள் யோசனை கூறினோம். இதில் கட்சி நோக்கம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. பிரச்னை தீர்க்கப்படுவேண்டுமென்பதற்காக நியாய